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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 14  
By Davis (Cocke)

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Clyde Emory Driskill, Jr.  
of Newport.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Clyde Emory Driskill, Jr., former chairman of the Newport Regional Planning Commission and a highly respected community leader; and

WHEREAS, a lifetime resident of Cocke County, Mr. Driskill was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Clyde Emory Driskill, Jr. was well-prepared to serve his native Newport as he learned the values of hard work, dependability, honesty, and devotion to helping others from his parents Clyde Driskill, Sr., who was chosen Newport's Citizen of the Century by *The Newport Plain Talk*, and Helen Sulte Driskill; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Driskill enlisted in the United States Army after graduating from the University of Chattanooga in 1952; he served his country meritoriously for seven years in that capacity and made history by becoming the first enlisted soldier to be promoted from corporal to warrant officer junior grade; and

WHEREAS, after completing his military service, Clyde Emory Driskill, Jr. returned to his beloved hometown to join his father in operating the family furniture business; in 1976, he became the major stockholder and president of Driskill's Furniture, which then flourished for over two decades due to his sharp business sense, strong work ethic, and strong commitment to customer service; and

WHEREAS, this remarkable citizen served with acumen and alacrity as a charter member of the Newport Regional Planning Commission and as its chairman from 1970 to 1999; in this position he earned the respect of his peers and the citizens of Newport for the exemplary quality of his work and his keen judgment and calming influence in uniting competing interests to overcome divisive issues in planning for a better Newport; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Driskill's dedication to Newport and Cocke County was manifested through his active participation in numerous organizations including the Newport Lion's Club, which he served as president in 1967-1968, and the Newport Theatre Guild, of which he was a charter member; and

WHEREAS, a civic leader of the greatest ability, Mr. Driskill also served his community as a member of the Newport Housing Authority Board for nearly twenty-three years and as director of the Newport Federal Bank; and

WHEREAS, Clyde Emory Driskill, Jr. was an active and devout member of the First United Methodist Church, which he served faithfully for many years as a member of the music committee, choir, quartet, hand-bell choir, and numerous other committees; and

WHEREAS, this venerable Tennessean was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Clyde Emory Driskill, Jr. shared love and companionship with his first wife, Marjorie Wade Driskill, until her untimely death; they were the proud and devoted parents of Michael and Jonathan Driskill and the late Janelle Driskill; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Driskill's later years were blissfully spent with his second wife, the former Diane Williams Huffman, who shared his devotion to their community and who presently serves as the Cocke County Administrator of Elections; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Driskill leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Clyde Emory Driskill, Jr., reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character, his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction and his estimable service to his community as chairman of the Newport Regional Planning Commission and as a civic leader of the utmost ability and dedication.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Driskill.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.